

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
8 July 1985

EX-AIDE TO HAIG PLANS TO REVEAL SPY SECRETS IN EMBEZZLEMENT TRIAL
WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. (UPI) -- MAJ. GEN. RICHARD B. COLLINS HAS
THREATENED TO EXPOSE CIA ACTIVITIES TO DEFEND HIMSELF AGAINST CHARGES
HE EMBEZZLED SPY FUNDS WHILE WORKING AS A KEY AIDE TO GEN. ALEXANDER
HAIG.

THE GOVERNMENT TRIED REPEATEDLY TO GET THE TRIAL HELD BEHIND
CLOSED DOORS, BUT U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE JAMES C. PAINE DECIDED COLLINS
WAS CONSTITUTIONALLY ENTITLED TO AN OPEN TRIAL.

JURY SELECTION WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN TODAY AT 9 A.M. EDT AND
ADDITIONAL U.S. MARSHALS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO SECURITY DUTIES AT THE
FEDERAL COURTHOUSE.

COLLINS AND HIS LAWYERS SAY THEY WILL DIVULGE INFORMATION ABOUT
SECRET U.S. CASH USED TO BANKROLL COVERT CIA OPERATIONS IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA AND ELSEWHERE TO DEFEND THE 55-YEAR-OLD AIR FORCE GENERAL, WHO
RETIRED TO FLORIDA IN 1981.

"THERE ARE SOME THINGS, SOME POSSIBLY DAMAGING, OR EMBARRASSING,
THAT WE'D RATHER NOT HAVE COME OUT," SAID A HIGH-RANKING DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, WHO CALLED COLLINS' THREATS TO EXPOSE GOVERNMENT
SECRETS "GRAYMAIL."

COLLINS, HOWEVER, INSISTS HE ONLY PLANS TO RELEASE INFORMATION
RELEVANT TO CHARGES AGAINST HIM.

"THE ONLY THING I EVER WANTED TO TALK ABOUT WAS WHAT HAPPENED
RELATING TO THE CHARGES AGAINST ME," HE SAID. "IT'S RIDICULOUS TO SAY
I WANT TO REVEAL 30 YEARS WORTH OF SECRETS."

COLLINS, WHO WAS ONCE ASSIGNED TO MANAGE SPY MONEY IN EUROPE, IS
ACCUSED OF CHANNELING ABOUT \$445,000 INTO HIS SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS AND
KEEPING ABOUT \$19,000 IN INTEREST.

HE IS EXPECTED TO ARGUE THE MONEY CAME FROM BANK ACCOUNTS USED TO
BRIBE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DURING THE VIETNAM WAR SO THEY
WOULD ALLOW AMERICAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO LAUNCH SPY MISSIONS FROM
THEIR COUNTRIES INTO CHINA, NORTH VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA.

IF CONVICTED ON ALL SIX COUNTS, HE COULD BE SENTENCED TO UP TO 60
YEARS IN PRISON AND FACE \$60,000 IN FINES.

COLLINS WAS DIRECTOR OF PLANS AND POLICIES AND SUPERVISED WAR
PLANNING FOR ALL U.S. MILITARY SERVICES AS AN AIDE TO HAIG WHEN HAIG
WAS SUPREME COMMANDER OF NATO FORCES IN EUROPE. HE ALSO CONDUCTED
MILITARY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SEVERAL EUROPEAN
NATIONS.